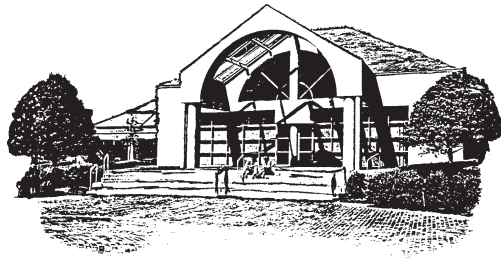


The Council Report

JULY 2002

News from the Friendship Heights Village Council—the elected governing body of the Special Tax District of the Village of Friendship Heights



Council Approves Design Concept for Humphrey Park Improvements

Following a presentation by the architect (Walton, Madden, Cooper, Robinson, Poness) and a lengthy public discussion, the Council approved a design concept (pictured at right) for improvements to Hubert Humphrey Park.

The project will include replacement of the brick pavers, the fountain, and the eight “globe” lights in the interior of the park. The new brick pavers will be installed using the Bethesda standard (herringbone pattern with a concrete and asphalt subbase and no mortar in the joints). This is the same standard used for the sidewalk adjacent to Willoughby Park, Highland House, and the new Chase Tower buildings on Willard Avenue, as well as much of downtown Bethesda.

While the new fountain will have the same shape as the present one, there will be a band of pavers—either precast or cut stone—around the fountain that will transition to the brick area. There will also be areas where the pavers are turned in a straight line, giving the visual effect of bands circling the fountain and leading to the center.

The concrete stairways in the park—along both of the walkways into the central plaza and near the portico—will also be replaced. One possible option is to use the same material (cut stone or precast concrete) in the new stairs as will be installed next

to the fountain. In addition, the benches and trash cans will be removed and likely updated.

While we will require that the existing landscaping in the park be preserved to the maximum extent possible, the architects advised us that the short hedges bordering the roses (near the fountain) should be removed as they probably will not survive excavation and construction. All other plantings should be adequately protected.

New Lights Chosen for Park

The Council approved new lights for the park to replace the eight “globe” poles, following a recommendation from our photometric consultant, Scott Watson.

Mr. Watson had completed a study of existing lighting levels in the park, which confirmed our

feeling that the lights needed to be brighter to enhance public safety. The new lights are a contemporary style—similar to the lights in Willoughby Park—and will increase the lighting level within the park to roughly the same amount as presently exists along the sidewalks.

Bus Stop at Metro Changed Temporarily

Metro will be closing the bus terminal above the Friendship Heights Metro stop from July 22 to August 10 in order to repave the bus lanes. The Village’s shuttle bus stop at the Metro will be moved during that time to Western Avenue, along with all the other buses.

—Melanie Rose White
Mayor



The Council took the following actions at the July 8, 2002, meeting:

- Transferred \$940,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund;
- Renewed Village's membership in the Maryland Municipal League for a total cost of \$9,097.54;
- Approved resolution entitled Health Care for All in support of statewide universal health care;
- Approved conceptual design of Hubert Humphrey Park improvements following presentation by Walton, Madden, Cooper, Robinson, Poness, Inc. (WMCRP) architectural firm (see front page); approved light fixture to replace "globe" lights in Humphrey Park following presentation by Scott Watson, photometric consultant.



**Monday, August 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friendship Boulevard and North Park Ave.**



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